REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Minor changes are made to this specification. Claims 1 and 2 are amended. Claims 1-4 are the independent claim. Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Kusumoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,351,315). Applicant respectfully traverse the rejection herein.

The present invention is directed to a system of managing image data in a network (*See, Abstract*). The amended independent claim 1 of present invention is recited below:

> A system of managing image data in a network, comprising: an image input device; an image forming device including storage means for storing image data which is outputted by an external computer, inputted by the image input device,
>
> at least one of the image input device and the image forming device being connected to the network; and a client computer, connected to the network, receives the image date transmitted by the image forming device, for managing the image data stored in the storage means via the network.

The applied reference does not disclose or suggest the above features of the present invention as defined by amended independent claim 1. In particular, Kusumoto does not disclose or suggest, "an image forming device including storage means for storing image data which is outputted by an external computer," as required by that claim.

Kusumoto discloses digital copying machines and a PC connected via a network (*see Kusumoto; Fig. 3*). The image data inputted by one of the digital copying machines is stored in memory thereof, and transmitted to the PC or other copy machines (*see Kusumoto; col. 7, lines 35-39*). In particular, Kusumoto teaches that the image data are transmitted when a paper jam or other error condition occurred. The image data are transmitted, but the function recited in the amended claim 1 is not performed on those data.

In contrast, the amended claim 1 recites that the image data stored in the image forming device is inputted by an external PC. Kusumoto does not disclose or suggest this feature.

Accordingly, the applied reference does not teach or suggest the above features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Since the applied reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest the above features recited in amended independent claim 1, that reference cannot be said to anticipate or render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of that claim.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 3 is allowable for the least the same reasons as those discussed in connection with amended independent claim 1.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kusumoto in view of Gase (US. Patent No. 6,184,996). Applicant respectfully traverse the rejection herein.

The amended independent claim 2 of present invention is recited below:

> A system of managing image data in a network, comprising: an image input device; an image forming device including storage means for storing image data inputted by the image input device,
>
> at least one of the image input device and the image forming device being connected to the network; and a client computer, connected to the network, for managing the image data stored in the storage means via the network,
>
> wherein the image forming device further includes a converter and a network interface; the storage means comprises a binary data storage section for storing the image data as binary data and a text data storage section for storing text data converted from the binary data by the converter; and the network interface includes a software for managing the text data, and transmits the text data stored in the text data storage section to the client computer.

The applied references do not disclose or suggest the above features of the present invention as defined by amended independent claim 2. In particular, Kusumoto and Gase do not disclose or suggest, "... a binary data storage section for storing the image data as binary data and a text data storage section for storing text data converted from the binary data by the converter," as recited in that claim.

Regarding "converter" recited in that claim, the Specification provides the example of a optical character reader , or OCR, converter 55 (*See, Specification; p. 7, Para. starting with "As shown in Fig.2..." – p.3, first Para.; Fig. 2*).

As discussed in the Specification, OCR conversion of image data is well known in art. A typical application of OCR is to covert an image file, such as a PDF ® file, to that of a text data file, such as a Microsoft Words ® file. When a text document is scanned via a scanner, it is stored the PDF format, which, as in other scanned documents, is an image data format. A scanner does not discriminate whether a scanned object is a figure or a text document; scanners do not have such capability as of today. All scanned objects are thus stored as image data files, of

which PDF is an example. In contrast, after the OCR conversion, the documents are stored by text characters, such as the Microsoft Words format. The Microsoft Words file may be sent to a printer in Postcript format, another type of text data format. The text data format distinguishes each text characters and store them individually. The text data format therefore has the characteristic of allowing text character manipulation, such as adding text characters on a document using the popular Microsoft Words word processing program. The most well known example of a text data may be that of ASCII format data.

Moreover, it is well known in the art that data stored in text data format require significantly less storage space than image data files.

Kusumoto teaches that the image data be compressed by a copy machine, and transmitted to external devices (*see Kusumoto; col. 11, lines 14-18*). The data scanned by the copy machine can be stored in a memory and transmitted to a printing section as image data (*see Kusumoto; col. 7, line 55 – col. 8, line 2*). Kusumoto teaches two type of image data to be transmitted and printed: one image data as scanned by the scanner, and one compressed by the copy machine. Kusumoto is silent regarding the text data.

It is well known in the art that the compression of an image data is accomplished by compressing the image binary data by some algorithms. The compressed image data file remain an image data file, albeit a compress one.

Kusumoto is no different; the applied reference teaches the image data is converted into rasterized data (bitmap data), compressed and stored in the memory (*see Kusumoto; col. 7, lines 28-35; col. 8, lines 41-50*). The compressed bitmap data are still image data, and not text data. Kusumoto thus does not teach or suggest the features recited in the amended independent claim 2.

The applied ancillary reference is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Kusumoto.

Accordingly, the applied references do not teach or suggest the above features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 2.

Since the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the above features recited in amended independent claim 2, those references cannot be said to anticipate or render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of that claim.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 2 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 4 is allowable for the least the same reasons as those discussed in connection with amended independent claim 2.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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